In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

cutting a product from a stalk from which it was grown;

removing a core of the product to form a de-cored product;

placing the de-cored product in a tote, wherein the step of placing comprises placing a plurality of de-cored products in a first row ~~of the de-cored product in~~ of the tote with de-cored ends of the ~~product~~ products in the first row facing a first side of the tote;

cleaning the de-cored ~~product~~ products in the tote by placing the first side of the tote in a flow of washing fluid, whereby the flow of washing fluid flows through the de-cored end of each product to an opposite end of each product.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of removing comprises cutting the core off.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said steps of removing, and placing are at a processing plant.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a whole head nature of the product is retained.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of removing comprises cutting out the core of the product using a stainless steel knife.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of removing comprises cutting out the core of the product using a v-cut or other device for removing the core.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of pre-washing the cut product prior to placing it in the tote.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of spray washing at least one end of the product before placement in the tote.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising the step of spray washing the product after placement in the tote and prior to transfer to a transport vehicle.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a whole head nature of the product is retained from harvesting through washing, drying, and packaging.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the de-cored ~~product is~~ products are placed in multiple rows on top of each other in the tote.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of immersing the tote in a wash tank for cleaning.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the wash tank includes a flow of washing fluid.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the wash tank comprises a flow of washing fluid in a direction toward the de-cored ends of the ~~product~~ products.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said step of immersing comprises loading the tote on a conveyance device that carries the tote through a wash tank.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of spin drying the product in the tote;

wherein a whole head nature of the product is maintained from harvesting through washing, drying, and packaging.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein a temperature of the washing fluid and other equipment utilized in the washing, drying, and packaging equipment achieve a product temperature of approximately 33 - 38 degrees F.

25. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

cutting a product from a stalk from which it was grown;

removing a core from a core end of the product, forming a de-cored product;

pre-washing the de-cored end of the product;

loading the de-cored product in a tote in a pre-aligned direction relative to the tote, wherein a de-cored end of each ~~product~~ of a plurality of products is placed against a side of the tote, and the tote includes openings large enough to allow the flow of a washing fluid through the tote and small enough to secure ~~the~~ each product in the tote;

transporting the tote to a processing facility;

immersing the tote in a washing tank having washing fluid;

conveying the tote through the washing fluid with the de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product facing a direction of conveyance, the speed of conveyance sufficient to cause at least

some of the washing fluid to flow through the de-cored end and out a leafy end of ~~the~~ each product;

loading the tote, directly from the washing tank, without re-loading, to a spin dryer; and

drying ~~the~~ each washed de-cored product in the tote in the spin dryer.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising the step of packaging ~~the~~ each washed and dried de-cored product.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the washing fluid comprises one of chilled water, chlorine, and an anti-bacterial agent.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, wherein:

the step of transporting comprises using a first conveyor belt; and

the method further comprises the steps of,

covering an open top end of the tote with a second conveyor belt, and

maintaining registration of the tote with the first conveyor belt by pressing it against the first conveyor belt with the second conveyor belt.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the step of transporting comprises using a conveyor belt having one of latches and stops configured to maintain registration of the tote with the conveyor belt.

38. (Original) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising the step of spray washing ends of the product before loading in the tote.

39. (Original) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising the step of spray washing ends of the product after loading in the tote.

40. (Original) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said step of immersing comprises loading the tote on a transport mechanism configured to transport the tote through the washing tank.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the transport mechanism is configured to transport the tote into a flow of washing fluid directed at the de-cored end of ~~the~~ each product in the tote.

42. – 65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of placing comprises placing a first row of the de-cored ~~product~~ products in the tote with de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product in the first row facing a first side of the tote, and placing a second row of ~~the~~ de-cored ~~product~~ products in the tote with de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product in the second row facing a second side of the tote.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 66, wherein the flow of washing fluid comprises a first flow directed at a first side of the tote and a second flow directed at a second side of the tote.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of cleaning comprises placing the tote on a conveyance device that carries the tote through a wash tank.

69. (Currently Amended) A method of processing produce, comprising:

cutting a product from a stalk from which it was grown;

removing a core of the product to form a de-cored product;

placing the de-cored product in a tote, wherein the step of placing comprises placing a plurality of de-cored products in a first row ~~of the de-cored product in~~ of the tote with de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product in the first row facing a first side of the tote;

immersing the tote into a wash tank containing a washing fluid; and

conveying the tote through the wash tank with the first side of the tote facing a direction of conveyance;

whereby washing fluid flows through the de-cored end of each product to an opposite end of each product.

70. (Currently Amended) A method of processing produce, comprising:

cutting a product from a stalk from which it was grown;

removing a core from a core end of the product, forming a de-cored product;

pre-washing the de-cored end of the product;

loading ~~the~~ a plurality of de-cored ~~product~~ products in a tote in a pre-aligned direction relative to the tote, wherein the tote includes openings large enough to allow the flow of a washing fluid through the tote and small enough to secure ~~the~~ each product in the tote;

transporting the tote to a processing facility;

cleaning the de-cored product in the tote by placing a first side of the tote in a flow of washing fluid, whereby the flow of washing fluid flows through the de-cored end of each product to an opposite end of each product;

loading the tote, directly from the washing fluid, without re-loading, to a spin dryer; and

drying ~~the~~ each washed de-cored product in the tote in the spin dryer.

71. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the step of loading comprises placing a first row of ~~the~~ de-cored ~~product~~ products in the tote with de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product in the first row facing a first side of the tote, and placing a second row of ~~the~~ de-cored ~~product~~ products in the tote with de-cored ends of ~~the~~ each product in the second row facing a second side of the tote.

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 71, wherein the flow of washing fluid comprises a first flow directed at a first side of the tote and a second flow directed at a second side of the tote.